

South Dakota Workforce Development Council

Digital Equity

May 3, 2023



South Dakota has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to expanding broadband



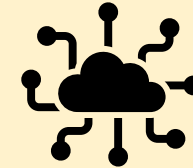
In the 1990's, the Connecting the Schools and Wiring the Schools Projects furthered technological advancement and has ensured **public schools in South Dakota are connected** to reliable internet.



Governor Noem's 2019 address to the state legislature issued a **challenge to bring sustainable, high-speed internet** to every home and business in South Dakota



Since its inception, the ConnectSD program has expanded service to **over 26,000 locations.**



South Dakota now has an opportunity to leverage additional Federal Funding to further broadband efforts in the State.

The NTIA oversees four primary programs to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet to everyone in America

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) sets forth \$65 billion investment into broadband, \$48.2 billion of which will be administered by the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

BEAD

\$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

DIGITAL EQUITY

\$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

\$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

\$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

BEAD Program will provide ~\$42.45B for infrastructure planning and implementation

BEAD Funding Pool

\$42.45B

Objective: How can we achieve universal coverage through building infrastructure and increasing adoption?

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The BEAD Program will help deliver:

- **Access:** increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure all Americans have access to high-quality, broadband services
- **Affordability:** supports affordability of broadband services and promotes long-term, sustainable, and affordable solutions
- **Adoption & Equity:** enables investment in digital skills training and make investments to ensure Americans can participate in economy and society



Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion

DE Funding Pool

\$2.75B

Objective: How can we ensure all communities are able to participate and meaningfully use high-speed internet?

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

- **State Planning:** \$60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans
- **State Capacity:** \$1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion
- **Competitive:** \$1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

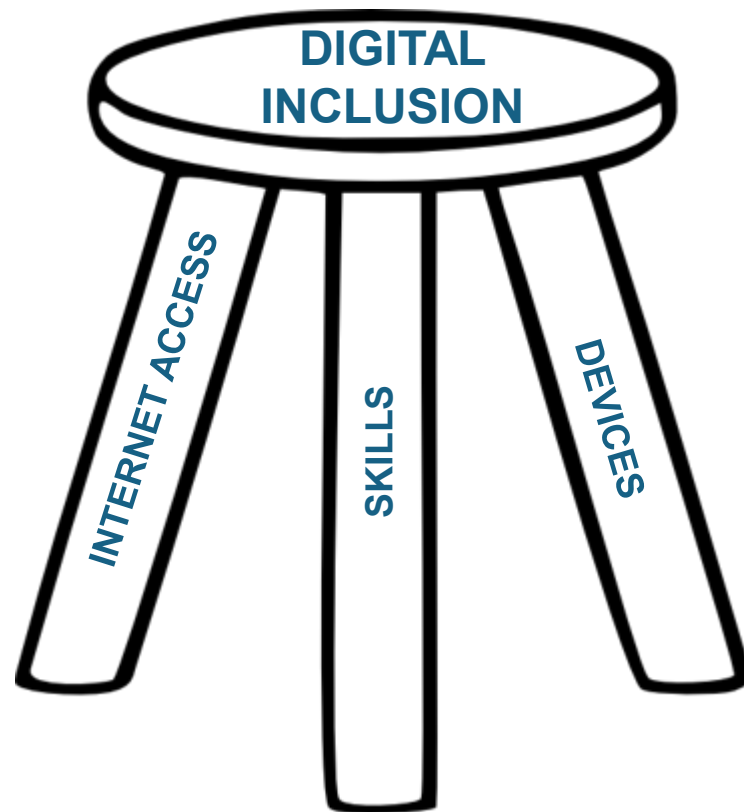
Example eligible uses of funds:

- Developing DE plans; states develop a plan to be eligible for state grants
- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet



South Dakota seeks to understand the digital equity barriers faced across populations as well as the impacts of various policy areas

Pillars of Digital Inclusion



NTIA's Covered Populations

- ✓ **Aging** (Sixty and above)
- ✓ **Low-income** households
- ✓ **Incarcerated** individuals
- ✓ Individuals with **disabilities**
- ✓ Individuals with **language barriers** or **low literacy**
- ✓ Those belonging to **racial or ethnic minorities**
- ✓ Those residing in **rural** areas
- ✓ **Veterans**

Policy Priorities

-  Economic and Workforce Development
-  Civic and Social Engagement
-  Educational Outcomes
-  Delivery of Essential services
-  Health Outcomes

Preliminary conversations have provided the following insights regarding the impact on workforce development

Why is internet important for workforce development?



Individual Career Growth

- Virtual courses creates opportunities to upskill
- Online job applications and remote work allow access to a wider job market

+



Empowering Entrepreneurs

- Business growth is supported through e-commerce
- Enable business location flexibility



Increasing National Footprint

- Having a skilled workforce makes South Dakota more nationally competitive

Topic #1: Are there benefits or outcomes not highlighted here that should be? Which opportunities are especially beneficial for building a strong workforce in South Dakota?

Preliminary stakeholder conversations have provided the following insights regarding challenges in accessing and adopting the internet



Individuals cannot **AFFORD** internet subscriptions or devices.



Individuals cannot **PHYSICALLY ACCESS** high-speed internet.



Individuals do not have and may not want to learn the **SKILLS** to use internet based programs.



Individuals are **APPREHENSIVE** towards adopting broadband for various reasons including cybersecurity.



Individuals are **UNAWARE** of existing support programs.

Workforce Implications:


Some South Dakotans will have limited participation in the workforce.

Topic #2: Are there any challenges missing from this list? Which challenge(s) should be prioritized?

To overcome the access and adoption challenges, South Dakota will need a suite of potential solutions



Topic #3: What are some solutions to help South Dakotans overcome these barriers?

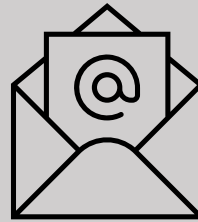


Example: Increase awareness about benefits of broadband through public service announcements.

Example: Expand digital literacy programming in the State.

Stay involved with broadband efforts in South Dakota

South Dakota Broadband Email



Please feel free to share any additional thoughts or information by emailing the following address:

broadband@state.sd.us